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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2B-10002-US01

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 25 on page 3 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The second material may also be characterized as one or more fibers or braids of fiber of a predetermined material or combination of materials. The fibers may be oriented relative to the longitudinal axis of the catheter tip in a variety of patterns. For example the fibers may be substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tip sleeve, angled relative thereto, helically or otherwise disposed thereabout, etc.

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 20 on page 8 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

In FIG. 5, the stripes 35 are also in a zig-zag pattern. The stripe 35 (or members 51 thereof) are angularly disposed relative to the longitudinal axis 13 of the tip 16 sleeve. However, in FIG. 5 the stripes 35 (or lengths 51 thereof) fully extend from one end 24 of the tip 16 to the other 26.

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 27 on page 10 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The tip 16 may be embodied in a wide range of striped configurations. As may be seen in FIG. 11, the stripes 35 themselves may also be provided in a variety of designs. In FIG. 11, a close-up view of a stripe 35 is shown within the surrounding matrix 33. The stripe 35 is made up of a plurality of interwoven fibers 40 which are woven together to form a braid structure 42. The braided configuration of the stripe 35 provides the tip 16 sleeve with a stripe or stripes 35 that may be substantially stronger than a single monofilament fiber 40, while maintaining the desired hardness and flexibility characteristics of the stripe material 34. As a result, tip 16 with one or more braids 42 of a given stripe material 34 shown will have improved longitudinal strength characteristics without a reduction in flexibility which may have resulted if a

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harder material 34 were used to form a monofilament stripe. In addition, where the stripe 35 is a braid 42 of several fibers 40, the individual fibers may be materials having different characteristics.

Please replace the paragraph starting at line 6 on page 12 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

The tip 16 may be provided in a wide range of shapes and sizes. The tip sleeves may have surface features such as dimples or troughs, or may have structural alterations such as through holes or ports, for altering the retraction characteristics of the tip. Tip 16 may include additional layers such as internal or external coatings, such as may be known in the art for improving the tip's sleeve's as well as the catheter's performance.